

# Guide to Assistance for U.S. Recommendation Implementation

## Introduction

The institutional framework for managing water quality in the St. Clair River and Lake St. Clair is complex. Managing and protecting the U.S. portion of this system is a shared endeavor among federal, state and local agencies. While Federal agencies have responsibility for executing environmental laws, this is often accomplished through programs that require initiative and implementation at the state and local level. Therefore, as the environmental issues affecting the St. Clair River and Lake St. Clair are complex and interrelated, responses to these problems often involve complex, interdisciplinary, multi-jurisdictional and binational coordination of interests. In this regard, a concerted effort among all stakeholders to address implementation of the St. Clair River and Lake St. Clair Comprehensive Management Plan, and the individual recommendations contained in it, is required to realize the Plan's success.

As discussed in Chapter 9, the U.S. EPA and MDEQ and Canadian agencies have established, as part of their responsibilities under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, a management framework for Lake St. Clair. The purpose of the framework is to provide a forum that facilitates communication and collaboration on both U.S. and Canadian sides, among local, state/provincial, and federal agencies and stakeholders with management authority and responsibility and/or an interest in water quality management or related activities. Separate U.S. and Canadian Watershed Coordinating Councils are identified as part of the framework.

On the U.S. side, an informal watershed group already exists that has membership made up of representatives at the county, township, and municipal level, including county health departments, public works offices at various governmental levels, drain commissions, municipal waste water treatment operators, as well as other groups with water quality responsibilities and local stakeholders including interested parties and groups. This group represents those agencies and stakeholders with the initiative, responsibility and authority to conduct certain management activities related to water quality. This group has expressed interest in becoming part of the U.S. Coordinating Council and would be willing to initiate the process of collaborating on management issues and providing input to state and federal agencies with responsibility for executing water quality and related laws. While a directed agency authority and resources to form and operate a partnership specifically committed to implementation of the Management Plan may be important for long term success in managing Lake St. Clair, a framework and group currently exists to initiate collaborative efforts. In this regard, this Guide to Assistance for U.S. Recommendation Implementation is provided to inform stakeholders of existing resources, talent, and authorities available from various federal agencies for implementation of the recommendations in the Management Plan.

The Guide contains a summary of the recommendations (Figure B-1) sorted by chapter and management issue area (key topic area in the report) and consecutively numbered for quick reference. This summary is followed by a table (Table B-1) containing each recommendation (recommendation number is keyed to the summary), a short discussion of the recommendation summarizing the relationship of, and resources available from, various parties in support of

implementation, and lists the Federal assistance available, eligible applicants, funding agency, type of assistance, and authorization. Also provided is the Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number for each program, where applicable.

The CFDA is a government-wide compendium of federal programs, projects, services, and activities that provide assistance or benefits to the American public. The catalog is updated twice a year, in June and December. Further details regarding the assistance cited in the guide can be found at The CFDA website: [www.cfda.gov](http://www.cfda.gov). These programs are particularly important in addressing recommendations that are not legally mandated by federal, state, and local authorities.

U.S. EPA presents similar information in its Catalogue of Federal Funding Sources for Watershed Protection, a searchable database of Federal financial assistance sources (grants, loans, cost-sharing) available to fund a variety of watershed protection projects. This catalogue is at <http://cfpub2.epa.gov/fedfund/>. Beyond federal funding sources, the website also provides Internet links to publications and organizations that might be useful in securing other types of financial and technical assistance for projects related to water quality.